

## ANOTHER ORIENTAL WAR

### Imminence of a Struggle Between Holland and Lombok.

**An Island in the Dutch East Indies That Is Contesting the Supremacy of the Fatherland—History of the Trouble.**

Besides the war between China and Japan the orient is the scene of another war. The sovereigns who are contending for the mastery are the fourteen-year-old Queen Wilhelmina of Holland and Balinese Rajah, who claims sovereignty over the island of Lombok, Dutch East Indies.

The contest, writes Thomas Parke Gordon in *Golden Days*, is not as unequal a one as might at first be supposed; for the young queen's troops have met with such serious reverses as to cast a gloom over the whole kingdom.

The queen's birthday was to have been celebrated on a grand scale at The Hague, August 31, but on account of the losses sustained by her troops at Lombok she gave orders to abandon the usual festivities.

For over half a century the Dutch have exercised sovereignty over Lombok, in trying to discipline whose oriental ruler their troops have met with so disastrous a defeat; but this sovereignty has been merely nominal, the real ruler being Balinese Rajah. The latter—a strict Brahmin—has been for some years trying to rid himself entirely of the Dutch influence in his country's affairs, and recently, with this end in view, he tried to secure the support of the British government.

That was about four months ago. When he found that his efforts were ineffectual he procured a small flotilla of naval vessels, and made other warlike preparations.

The Dutch authorities protested against such proceedings, but the rajah paid no attention to them. War was then declared and three battalions of the colonial army were sent against him, with artillery, and five men-of-war to support them, to teach the oriental potentate a lesson. But the Dutch, instead of teaching him a lesson met with overwhelming defeat, as has been recorded in the cable dispatches which have been received at this writing. There had been bloody battle before in the East Indies, but never have Europeans been so badly beaten.

Lombok—called Tanah Sasak by the natives and Selaprang by the Balinese—is an island of the Sunda group, lying east of Java, with the island of Bali intervening. It has an area of about 2,098 square miles, which is watered by numerous small streams, scarcely any of which are navigable, and dotted over with many mountain lakes.

There are two mountain ranges, between which is a well-watered plain, wholly planted with rice, the hillsides producing coffee and Indian corn. The scenery throughout the island is beautiful—forest-clad mountains and thorny jungles alternating with the rich allu-

vial plains, which are cultivated like gardens under an ancient and elaborate system of irrigation.

To the naturalist, Lombok is of peculiar interest as the frontier island of the Australian regions, with its cockatoos and mound-builders and bee-eaters and ground-thrushes. The population is about half a million.

There can be but little doubt as to the outcome of the war. While the rajah may be able to keep off the Dutch for months and years, sooner or later Wilhelmina's troops must be victorious.

At best, the war can only cause her the loss of that one island, although if all the other Dutch colonies, encouraged by the outcome of the war in Lombok, should link hands and revolt, their independence would probably result.

It is interesting to call attention to the colonies of Holland. This little European kingdom, with an area of but 12,648 square miles and a population of 4,669,576—which is about the area of Delaware and Maryland together, and half a million less than the population of the state of Pennsylvania—rules a colonial territory of 766,137 square miles, with a population of 33,000,000.

The colonial possessions fall naturally into two groups—the East Indian possessions including Java, Madura, Bali, Lombok, Sumatra, the Moluccas, Celebes, Timor, parts of Borneo, and the western part of New Guinea—and the West Indies, the chief of which are Dutch Guinea and Curacao. Holland once had considerable territory on the coast of Guinea, but this was disposed of by sales to Great Britain in 1872.

Queen Wilhelmina, whose birthday festivities were abandoned on account of the Dutch reverses in the East Indies, was born August 31, 1880, and succeeded to the throne on the death of her father, King William III., on November 23, 1890.

She is now a fine, tall girl of fourteen. Her birthday festivities last year, by her special desire, took the form of school treats on a very large scale. Next winter the young queen is to figure on a new issue of coins and stamps, with her hair done up in a womanly fashion.

#### Sharp Traders.

The native Adirondacker is an odd compound of honesty and extortion. He likes fair dealing, but he esteems the health-seeking, pleasuring or sporting sojourner his natural prey. He charges the highest market rates to all such, and seemingly believes them all rich. "What have you to sell?" asked a visitor of a hawker mounted on a laden wagon. "Oh, things for the poor folks about the country." "I'm one of the poor folks camping on the lake over yonder, and I'm tired of paying double prices for everything. Can you supply me with your wares?" The hawker looked his man over thoroughly, and, recognizing in him the genus visitor, replied: "I hain't got nothing you'd have, 'cept, perhaps, tea," and without awaiting further parley he drove on.

## SOUTHERN SQUIRREL HUNTERS

**Primitive Habits and Customs of Louisiana Nimrods.**

"I have been among the squirrel hunters," said a gentleman who had just returned from his vacation, according to the New Orleans Times-Democrat. "The squirrel hunters are a peculiar people inhabiting the southwestern counties of Mississippi and adjoining Louisiana parishes. They have been living there for generations and preserve the primitive customs and habits of their forefathers.

"The squirrel hunter is doubtless a descendant of Kentucky settlers, for they are all tall, stately people, and great lovers of the hunt. But there is now little large game to be found, and so they spend their time hunting the squirrel, which is also scarce. The squirrel hunters are farmers, but raise little except corn. The pine-hill region, where they live, is not penetrated by railroads, and there are hundreds of such people who have never seen a steam engine. I saw a great many of the oldest squirrel hunters of the country, and found them to be a very strange-looking people. They all wear long hair, which often reaches down to their belts. Their beards, too, are long, often matted with their hair. They wear homespun pantaloons and homemade shoes. Their shirts are oftentimes made from the skins of squirrels, which they wear in the winter, while in summer they wear an open blouse shirt, also of home make. Their houses are made of pine logs, between which mud is placed as a plastering. These houses are covered with pine boards split from the woods. There are never any inclosures about their homes, their yards opening out into the pine forest.

"These squirrel hunters, while they have no churches, are a very religious people, though a great deal of superstition is connected with their worship. Their churches are made of boughs of pine, placed upon a scaffolding, to keep out the sun. Now and then a country revival is held in these arbor-houses, but this is seldom."

## FUN FOR YOUNG JAPS.

**How the Youngsters Ensnare Dragon Flies for Kites.**

One of the greatest amusements for the children of Japan is catching the "dragon fly," said Dr. W. F. Taylor, of Boston, who, according to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, has spent several years in Japan. Japan is a land of children, and thousands of them literally put in several weeks every autumn in capturing dragon flies and tying kites to them for the fun of seeing them fly. Soon after the turn of the sun in the afternoon hundreds and thousands of huge dragon flies busy themselves flying here and there over the rice fields and gardens, catching insects and gnats. The Japanese boys carefully saturate the end of a bamboo with tar and start out for the fun. They must hold the bamboo up to attract the unsuspecting dragons to take a rest. In a moment the boy gives the bamboo a twist, and puts the tarred